

REMARKS

With this amendment, Applicants cancel claims 4 and 6. Claims 1-3, 5 and 7 are all the claims pending in the application.

I. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 5 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe *et al.* (US 2001/0016522). For at least the following reasons, Applicants traverse the rejection.

Without conceding to the merits of the Examiner's contentions, but only to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicants have incorporated the allowed subject matter of claims 4 and 6 into claims 1 and 5, respectively. Accordingly, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and reserve the right to file a continuing application to further pursue claims 1-3, 5 and 7 as pending before this amendment.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for finding allowable subject matter in claims 4 and 6 and for indicating that claims 4 and 6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent.

Applicants have incorporated the subject matter of claims 4 and 6 into claims 1 and 5, respectively. Applicants have also rewritten claim 5 in independent form.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

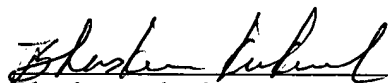
Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Serial No. 10/765,088

Attorney Docket No.: Q79546

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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